

Message Text

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12

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 STR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 AF-10 EA-11 /195 R

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EUR/RPE: CCARTHY (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 038435

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR HEARINGS: PRESENTATIONS FOR WEST INDIES,
ECUADOR, PANAMA AND BELIZE

REF: STATE 26559

1. LOBBYISTS REPRESENTING SUGAR SUPPLIERS IN WEST INDIES,
ECUADOR, PANAMA AND BELIZE APPEARED BEFORE HOUSE AGRICUL-
TURE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 26. ARTHUR L. QUINN AND ARTHUR LEE
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QUINN MADE STATEMENTS COVERING POINTS SET OUT PARA 3 REF-

TEL ON BE HALF OF ADDRESSEE SUPPLYING COUNTRIES.

2. WITH RESPECT TO WEST INDIES, THE QUINNS OUTLINED SERIOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS AND PRIOR COMMITMENTS TO UK UNDER COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AGREEMENT WHICH HAD CAUSED SHORTFALLS IN MEETING U.S. QUOTA IN 1972 AND 1973. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT WEST INDIES GOVERNMENTS ARE NOW DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SUGAR MARKETING, AND HAVE DIVERTED SOME SHIPMENTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE U.S. IN RESPONSE TO FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED OPPORTUNITY. THEY STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT ANY COMMITMENTS TO THE EC AFTER 1974 "WILL BE LIMITED IN ORDER TO ASSURE SUPPLY OF ALL SUGAR THAT IS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. MARKET. HENCEFORTH, THE US. MARKET WILL HAVE PRIORITY." THEY REQUESTED RETENTION OF AT LEAST QUOTA LEVEL SET OUT IN CURRENT LEGISLATION AND SAID WEST INDIES WOULD ACCEPT INCREASE IN QUOTA TO ALLOW SHIPMENTS OF BETWEEN 250,000 AND 300,000 SHORT TONS BEGINNING IN 1975.

COPIES OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 25 REQUESTING INCREASED QUOTA WERE SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD.

3. WITH REGARD TO ECUADOR, PANAMA AND BELIZE, QUINNS OUTLINED REASONS THESE COUNTRIES DESIRE TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN U.S. SUGAR PROGRAM DESPITE FACT WORLD MARKET PRICES CURRENTLY AT PREMIUM TO U.S. PRICES. THEY SAID EACH COUNTRY EXPECTS FULFILL FULL 1974 QUOTA. WHILE ECUADOR DID NOT REQUEST INCREASED QUOTA, DESPITE SHORTFALLS IN 1972 AND 1973, PANAMA ASKED INCREASE TO 150,000 SHORT TONS BEGINNING IN 1978. BELIZE REQUESTED INCREASE TO 60,000 TONS BEGINNING IN 1975.

4. COMMITTEE REACTION TO TESTIMONY WAS, WITH MINOR EXCEPTIONS, REASONABLY FRIENDLY. CONGRESSMAN WAMPLER, RANKING MINORITY MEMBER, MADE SPECIAL POINT OF ACKNOWLEDGING STATEMENTS REGARDING CHANGE IN WEST INDIES MARKETING PRIORITIES. THERE WERE QUESTIONS SUGGESTING THAT, GIVEN BELIZE'S SMALL POPULATION AND CONTROL OF INDUSTRY BY BRITISH INTERESTS, BELIZE QUOTA AND REQUEST FOR INCREASE MIGHT BE EXCESSIVE.

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5. AT CONCLUSION OF TESTIMONY, CHAIRMAN POAGE COMPLIMENTED QUINNS ON PRESENTATION AND SAID THEY HAD DONE GOOD JOB IN PRESENTING CASES OF THEIR CLIENTS, AND THAT COMMITTEE WOULD TAKE THEIR REQUESTS UNDER ADVISEMENT.

6. COPIES OF STATEMENTS BEFORE COMMITTEE BEING POUCHED.
CASEY

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